



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

October 5, 1999

Steve Stamatakis  
2676 West Gordon Creek Road  
Price, Utah 84501

Pete Stamatakis  
1111 South 450 West  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Explanation of Field Visit on July 16, 1999, Lodestar Energy, Inc., Horizon Mine, ACT/007/020, File #2, Carbon County, Utah.

Dear Messrs. Stamatakis:

The Division of Oil, Gas & Mining is responsible for regulating the mining industry in a manner that protects the environment and the interests of the State and its citizens. We have recently been made aware of your concerns with the Army Corp or Engineer's actions involving your property, which followed one of our recent field visits. On July 16, 1999 the Division conducted a field visit to the Horizon coal mine, with Sharon Falvey, Reclamation Specialist representing the Division and Vicky Miller representing the mining company, Lodestar Energy, Inc. This letter is written to provide information resulting from that field visit that we feel may clarify this issue and explain our actions. There are four main purposes, which we hope to accomplish:

- 1) The first purpose is to apologize if our actions have caused you undue hardship or have strained the relationship between you, the Division and the mine. I assure you this was not our intent.
- 2) The second purpose is to provide information to you on how the water monitoring activities, conducted to meet permit requirements for the Horizon Mine, resulted in notifying the Army Corps about timber logging activities conducted on and adjacent to your properties near Beaver Creek.

3) The third purpose is to convey to you potential problems resulting from the logging activities which could be confused with water quality and quantity issues resulting from mining.

4) The fourth purpose is to encourage you to remain active in your communications with Lodestar Energy, Inc. and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

The issue that brought the Lodestar Energy, Inc. consultant, Vicky Miller (EarthFax Engineering Inc.), to contact Sharon was her concern over how the logging activities may affect the ability to obtain and analyze surface and spring water monitoring information relative to the mine (I have enclosed a copy of Sharon Falvey's field report to this letter).

Following Sharon's site visit she contacted the Army Corp of Engineers and Utah State Engineers Office because she felt the logging was being conducted in a manner that did not protect the water resources that you have expressed concern over in the past. Although some of the monitored spring and surface water areas were being impacted by logging, she felt additional impacts might be prevented if the logging company was aware of and used methods that could minimize impacts to the remaining resources.

The types of changes to spring and surface waters that might result from the logging activities are outlined below. This is provided, so you can understand how the springs and surface water could be impacted by logging activities.

### Springs

Road building over and through springs can change the spring location. This can cause error in collecting the flow rate, especially if the water issues from more than one place. Additionally, timber removal can result in increased discharge rates during the early spring and in decreasing flow rates occurring earlier than is typical during an average year. This happens because the vegetation and root structure is no longer available to assist in soil moisture retention and storage.

Another potential problem is that alluvial springs can cease to discharge. Alluvial springs are those springs for which the discharge is related to sand and gravel deposition and water table elevation adjacent to the stream channel. When the timber is removed the runoff following snowmelt or during rainfall occurs more quickly within the watershed. This can result in large volumes of streamflow occurring in a shorter period and may cause the stream elevation to be lowered: down cutting and nick points (gulling) result, and the water table is lowered. It is the lowering of the water table that can cause alluvial springs to cease flowing.

Page 3  
Horizon Mine  
ACT/007/020  
October 5, 1999

Streams

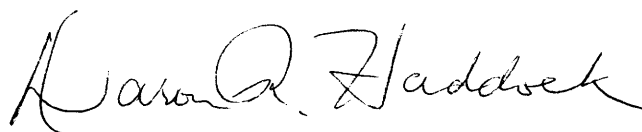
As mentioned above, the increased streamflow volume that occurs from logging may change the stream channel. Generally speaking two things happen; channels may degrade (be down cut) or channels may aggrade (collect sediment moving from up-gradient locations). This can change the stream flow characteristics. The lowered watertable can decrease the late season flow while the increased sediment can change storage and discharge relationships along the stream.

Finally, I encourage you to remain active in your communications with Lodestar Energy, Inc. and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. As you know, the continued collection of data is important to determine whether mining impacts occur and this data collection is a part of the operators permit requirement. We want to ensure that your interests are being protected from the impacts of mining. With the knowledge of geology, baseline data, timing of mining and logging activities, the ability to determine whether an impact occurs from mining or from logging activities can be distinguished.

I suggest an onsite meeting be conducted between Lodestar Energy, Inc., all affected land owners, and the Division to specifically identify the areas impacted by logging and the potential for impact by mining, before additional mining occurs.

If we can be of assistance or if you have any questions, please call me at 801-538-5325 or Sharon Falvey at 801-538-5260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daron Haddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daron" and last name "Haddock" clearly distinguishable.

Daron Haddock

Permit Supervisor

jb  
Enclosure: Field Visit Form  
cc: Dave Miller, Horizon Mining LLC  
Bill Malencik, PFO  
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
O:\007020.HZN\DRAFT\stamatlog.ltr.wpd



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-7223 (TDD)

DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING  
FIELD VISIT FORM  
TECHNICAL

Date : July 16, 1999

Time: 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Mine: Horizon Mine

File Number: Act/007/020, Folder #2

DOGM Staff: Sharon Falvey

Other Attendees: Vicky Miller

**Purpose:**

To observe effects of logging on Beaver Creek and Jump Creek and determine how this may affect monitored springs and surface waters.

**Observations:**

The logging operations and road construction occurred immediately adjacent to Beaver Creek in some locations. The operations were conducted through spring discharge areas. Culverts were placed in the creek. Impacts to Beaver Creek and adjacent drainages include sediment loading and downcutting; downcutting is likely to continue. Photos are attached.

**Recommendations/Conclusions:**

The Division has concerns as to whether the logging practices will affect the ability to differentiate between impacts that may occur from mining and logging operations. The Division recommends the mine representatives and the Division accompany the land owners and visit monitored springs and streams to identify areas where logging occurred adjacent to these sites. The Army Corps and State Engineers office were notified to assure the logging operations are conducting activities in accordance with applicable laws.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sharon Falvey*

Sharon Falvey, Reclamation Hydrologist

on August 10, 1999

H:\MINES\HORIZON\HZVST716.WPD

cc: Bill Malencik, PFO  
Brooks Carter, Army Corps



**Location:**

T13S R8E Section 17,  
SW 1/4, NW 1/4

Jewkes Creek, above the mine.  
Road side cast material fills  
drainage.



**Location:**

T13S R8E Section 8,  
NE 1/4.

Logging adjacent to Beaver  
Creek between water monitoring  
points SS-12 and SS-8.



**Location:**

T13S R8E Section 8,  
NE 1/4.

Logging adjacent to Beaver  
Creek between water monitoring  
points SS-12 and SS-8.



**Location:**  
T13S R8E Section 8,  
NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4.

Logging road built through  
monitored spring CVG-6 in  
Sand Gulch drainage.

These are a few examples of visible logging impacts that may influence flow and water quality characteristics at monitored locations on the Stamatakis property and adjacent lands above the Horizon Mine lease area. Additional photographs may be reviewed in the Division files associated with the field visit conducted on July 16, 1999.